



BOROUGH OF ILKESTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

On the Sanitary Condition and Vital
Statistics of the Borough of Ilkeston,
for the Year 1904.



BY JOHN J. TOBIN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF ILKESTON.

HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Chairman :

MR. ALDERMAN HUNT.

Vice-Chairman :

MR. COUNCILLOR WOOLLEY.

Members :

MR. ALDERMAN MALTBY.

MR. COUNCILLOR BLANK.

„ HENSHAW.

„ SCATTERGOOD.

„ SHAKSPEARE.

„ SUTTON.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JOSEPH B. DURO, C.S.I.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

JOHN J. TOBIN, M.D.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BOROUGH OF ILKESTON,

FEBRUARY, 1905.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, and Burgesses of the
Borough of Ilkeston.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1904. These annual Health Reports are really statements of accounts and balance-sheets of the years as they pass by, and as such should contain useful lessons to us for our future guidance and conduct in trying to improve the health of the people ; and, after all, to improve the health of the people physically, as well as morally, is no mean patriotism, and I hope also no mean ambition.

I am pleased to be able to announce that the balance-sheet for 1904 is a decided improvement on that of 1903.

This can be seen at a glance by comparing the accounts of the two years, as shown in the following pages. It will be seen that the Birth rate is practically the same as last year—a shade lower. It keeps well in excess of the Death rate, and as long as the proportion of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ births to 1 death is maintained, there will be little fear of the population of Ilkeston declining.

The returns show that in 1903 Ilkeston had the highest birth rate in the County of Derby of all the Urban Districts.

Unfortunately, the set-off against this is always with us in the shape of high infantile mortality. Even though 1904 shows a fair improvement in this respect, viz., 183 per 1000, as against 198 per 1000 for 1903, still this state of things is not what it ought to be. The irony of it is that this high infantile death-rate is preventable, and that the preventative measures are very inexpensive indeed. The *proper feeding of infants* is the only remedy, and surely this ought to be an easy and a cheap one. As I pointed out in last year's report "*milk is the only food that should be given to an infant under six months old.*" If we could only improve this department, Ilkeston would show a very low death-rate indeed. By the way, the milk question is a very large one. It has to



do not only with infant mortality, but is closely associated with and responsible for infectious diseases, such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Croup, and Enteric Fever, also Phthisis and Tubercular Diseases; and more especially still with Summer Diarrhœa, Green Diarrhœa, Dysentery, and English Cholera, as well as all the different forms of Enteritis and Gastritis, which take away the lives of so many children. *In this connection, sterilizing of milk is to be strongly recommended.* This might be done either by the Municipal Authority, as is the case in many parts of the country, or by some patriotic and enterprising dairy man. I am sure a fortune awaits any private individual who will start this industry in Ilkeston. He will certainly have the assistance and good wishes and recommendations of the Medical profession, and he will also deserve the best thanks of his fellow citizens.

A very important item of the past year has been the Small-pox epidemic, which appeared amongst us early in August. Even though it continued to crop up for a long time, and even though it showed itself in upwards of a dozen different localities in the Borough, still I am pleased to say we were successful in stamping it out every time. The measures which I adopted to this end were not always agreeable to the people concerned, especially in the beginning. Fortunately, my Health Committee were quite with me in the matter, and gave me every encouragement and assistance. Also the assistance rendered by Mr. Duro, the Sanitary Officer, was invaluable. After a short time, however, when it became apparent that our measures were successful, we received the support and congratulations of everybody, and met with no further trouble or opposition.

As I pointed out above, if the infant mortality were checked, Ilkeston would show a very decent bill of health. It has the advantage of being pitched upon a hill, with an elevation of 322 feet above sea level. It is bracing also, from its proximity to the Peak of Derbyshire—in fact, it is the beginning of the Peak District. Its many industries of coal, iron, lace, hosiery, needles, &c., are not unhealthy, and its factories and workshops are commodious and well ventilated.

The Schools of the district also are as a rule well adapted and well ventilated, and not overcrowded. Most overcrowding always appears to me to be in the Infant Schools.

On the question of Infant Schools and infant education, I may say I hold opinions not in accordance with the present order of things. My notion is that no child should be sent to school until it has attained the age of "seven" years. I think education—or, so called education—under this age is not alone useless and expensive, but it is decidedly harmful and pernicious to the health and physique of the children and of the nation as a whole. Apart from the spreading of infectious diseases, for which infant schools are so happily adapted; apart from the defects of sight, which are invariably caused or initiated by over-straining of the eyes under the age of seven years; apart from many other considerations that might be advanced, there is the common question of utility. A useful debate might be raised on the following double-barrelled question, *Is the so-called education received under the age of seven useful for educational purposes?* and also, *Is it good for the physical and mental development of the child?* For my part, I don't see how affirmative answers can be given to both these questions; and, remember, they cannot be dissociated nor answered apart. Even admitting slight educational advantages—and I feel sure they are slight, and certainly not worth the candle—they are more than counterbalanced by the physical degeneracy that one sees under the present system. The so-called educational advantages do not mean brain or mental development, as one would hope, but a development of nerves and neurotics. It is this development of "nerves," with all the morbidity it entails, which is the curse of modern life, and this at the same time is at the expense of the physical development of the child. Why not be as natural as we may, and allow the child to grow and develop and play in the fields as long as possible? Then the child at seven would possess a "*mens sana in corpore sano*," and would thereby combine educational and physical possibilities and advantages of a high order indeed.

I think you will agree with me that this child would soon make up for the lost time, and would soon gain on the youngster who had had two or three years start of him. I wish some

educational enthusiast would compute for me (1st) what per centage of elementary education is acquired by the present system under the age of seven years ; and, at the same time, compute in £ s. d. what this is costing the country. Then one might consider these figures in connection with the great question of "physical deterioration" which is now attracting so much attention in England. On the face of it, a great saving of rates would be effected ; and these rates could, I think, be used with far better educational advantage on and after the child had attained the age of fourteen years.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

[JOHN J. TOBIN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.



Summary of Report

AND

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH OF ILKESTON FOR THE YEAR 1904.

Area of Borough, 2526 acres ; rateable value, £79,600.

Nature of soil is mostly stiff non-porous clay.

Altitudes vary from 150 to 332 feet above sea level.

Industries of the district are lace, hosiery, iron, coal, and needles.

Water supply is excellent in quality and quantity, and comes directly from the solid rock out of the Peak of Derbyshire —no pollution is possible.

Compulsory notification of Infectious Diseases in force.

Isolation Hospital of upwards of 20 beds at Little Hallam.

A new system of sewage disposal is being inaugurated in connection with which a refuse destructor and disinfecting apparatus will be constructed.

A good system of Electric Trams runs from end to end of the Borough.

Railway facilities by the Midland and by the Great Northern are very good indeed.

Number of houses in 1891, 3776 ; 1901, 5005 ; 1902, 5650 ; 1903, 5824 ; 1904, 6042.

Number of persons per house last census, 5.07.

Very few houses with less than four rooms.

Housing accommodation generally good.

The Borough is well provided with large open spaces.

Population in 1891 (census), 19,744 ; 1901 (census), 25,383 ; 1904, 28,500.

Birth Rate for 1904, 37.8.

Death Rate for 1904, 16.4.

Infantile mortality for 1904, 183.5.

Zymotic Death Rate for 1904, 2.5.

Phthisis Reath Date for 1904, 5.5.

Total number of Births, 1079.

Total number of Deaths, 469.

Number of deaths under "one year," 198.

Natural Increase of Population, 610.

Of the Births 556 were males and 523 females.

Of the total 469 Deaths, 198 occurred under one year ; 63 from 1 to 5 years ; 16 from 5 to 15 years ; 24 from 15 to 25 years ; 101 from 25 to 65 years ; 67 from 65 upwards.

The following Tables, I., II., III., IV., and M., are in accordance with the Local Government Board requirements. These tables form the pith of all annual reports, and from them mainly the health statistics of the country are made out. Table IV. is of vast interest and importance.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	No.	Rate.
1896	22,634	835	36.8	163	195.2	367	16.1
1896	22,634	835	36.8	163	195.2	367	16.1
1897	23,212	891	38.3	132	148.1	377	16.1
1898	23,790	954	40.1	186	194.9	452	18.9
1899	24,368	922	37.8	190	206	473	19.3
1900	24,946	936	37.5	173	184.8	436	17.5
1901	25,524	1012	39.6	184	181.8	430	16.8
1902	26,100	958	36.7	169	176.4	456	17.4
1903	26,900	1080	40.2	214	198.1	492	18.2
1904	28,500	1079	37.8	198	183.5	469	16.4

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards.
Small-pox	20	3	4	7	6		
Cholera	0						
Diphtheria	8		5	1		2	
Membranous Croup ..	1				1		
Erysipelas	7		1	2		3	1
Scarlet Fever	78	1	30	42	3	2	
Typhus Fever	0						
Enteric Fever	36		1	10	15	10	
Relapsing Fever	0						
Continued Fever	0						
Puerperal Fever	2					2	
Plague	0						
Chicken Pox	30	2	20	8			
Totals	182	3	60	67	25	26	1

Number of cases of Infectious Disease reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1904, and of deaths from the diseases notified.

	Cases notified in 1904.	Deaths Regis- tered in 1904.
Small-pox	20	1
Scarlet Fever	78	6
Diphtheria	8	4
Membranous Croup	1	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	36	6
Puerperal Fever	2	1
Erysipelas	7	0
Chicken Pox	30	0

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES,						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards,
Small-pox	1						
Measles	6	2	4				
Scarlet Fever	6	1	5				
Whooping Cough	25	16	9				
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	4		3	1			
Croup	0						
Fever {	Typhus	0					
	Enteric	6		2		4	
	Other contind.	0					
Epidemic Influenza ..	8			2	1	2	3
Cholera	0						
Plague	0						
Diarrhœa	27	21	5	1			
Enteritis	13	12	1				
Puerperal fever	1					1	
Erysipelas	0						
Other Septic Diseases..	1			1			
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	26	1	2	1	8	13	1
Other Tubercular Dis...	19	7	6	1	3	2	
Cancer, Malignant Dis.	21					14	7
Bronchitis	67	35	14			4	14
Pneumonia	9	1	3			5	
Pleurisy	0						
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs	1					1	
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver)	2					1	1
Venereal Diseases	0						
Premature Birth	17	17					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	8				1	7	
Heart Diseases	23	1			2	16	4
Accidents	7	1	1		2	2	1
Suicides	3				2		1
All other causes	168	83	10	7	5	28	35
All causes	469	198	63	16	24	101	67

An Analysis of some of the figures contained in these tables will be instructive :—

BIRTHS. . .

The Births registered in Ilkeston in 1904 were 1079, as against 1080 the year before. Owing to the large increase in the estimated population, this year shows a reduced Birth-rate of 37.8. There were 556 males and 523 female children born. The table below shows the Births and Deaths for some years past :—

Year.	No. of Births.	Rate per 1,000.
1896	835	36.8
1897	891	38.3
1898	954	40.1
1899	922	37.8
1900	936	37.5
1901	1012	39.6
1902	958	36.7
1903	1080	40.2
1904	1079	37.8

DEATHS.

The Deaths in the year numbered 469, as against 492 the year before. This is a decided improvement, and is explained by the mortality from Measles being so much less in 1904. Otherwise, the comparison of the death tables for the two years shows a marked similarity in detail.

To those interested in sanitary matters and “all the ills that flesh is heir to,” I would recommend a close perusal of Table IV. of the above series. The Art of Medicine in all its branches, both healing and preventative, is founded on this Table IV.

The ancient origin of Table IV. is admitted on all hands. It was on the date of Adam’s departure from the Garden of Paradise that the first copy of Table IV. was made out and handed to him. This, of course, at once constituted Adam as a Doctor of Medicine and Medical Officer of Health, with all the privileges and perquisites attached thereto; and this fact it is that places the antiquity of the noble profession of Medicine and the Art of Healing beyond all shadow of doubt. At that time also it was that “Death came into the world, and all its woe.”

Since then we have had to do with Table IV. and all its multiplicity of combinations and complications, until we come down to the year 1904 in this Borough of Ilkeston.

It will be observed in Table IV. that during the year Small-pox caused 1 death, Measles 6, Scarlet Fever 6, Whooping Cough 25, Diphtheria 4, Enteric Fever 6, Influenza 8, Diarrhœa 27, Enteritis 13, Puerperal Fever 1, Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases 45, Cancer 21, Bronchitis 67, Pneumonia 9, Premature Births 17, Heart Disease 23, Accidents and Suicides 10, &c.

Below is a list of the Deaths and Death-rates for some years past :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000,
1896	367	16.1
1897	377	16.1
1898	452	18.9
1899	473	19.3
1900	436	17.5
1901	430	16.8
1902	456	17.9
1903	492	18.2
1904	469	16.4

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

As has been already stated, this item is not quite so serious as in the preceding year. Still, our Infant Death-rate of 183.5 is very high by comparison. For instance, the Infant Death-rate for Derby County is only 136. The rate for all England, I might say, is only 132. This high Infant Death-rate it is also which keeps our ordinary Death-rate so high.

I have already gone into this matter and made recommendations. Last year also I spoke very fully and strongly about it, so that not much more remains to be said. The cause of the Infant Mortality—at least, the preventable cause—is mainly “*improper feeding and bad nursing.*” This being so, I would again repeat my recommendation of last year as regards Parish and District Nurses, who would advise and pay special attention to infant rearing and nursing. I would also recommend that “elementary nursing” be added as a compulsory subject in the schools for the senior girls. It

seems to me that good, sound teaching in this subject should be a first essential for girls, and that it would result to their benefit and to the benefit of their children in after life. I have already mentioned and recommended the "sterilization of milk" for infant feeding. Especially is sterilized milk to be recommended in the late summer months for the prevention of Summer Diarrhœa, which kills so many children as well as infants at this time. The deaths under one year for 1904 are caused as follows :—

Measles	2
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	16
Diarrhœa	23
Enteritis	12
Phthisis, &c.	8
Bronchitis	36
Premature Births	17
Other causes	83

The Deaths and Death-rate amongst Infants for some years past is as arranged below :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1896	163	185.2
1897	163	185.2
1897	132	148.1
1898	186	194.9
1899	190	200.0
1900	173	194.8
1901	184	181.8
1902	169	176.4
1903	214	198.1
1904	198	183.5

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

This rate (2.5) is lower than the preceding year. For the whole county it is 1.68, and for England it is 1.46. The fact of its being so high with us this year is due to the high mortality amongst children from Whooping Cough, which caused 27 deaths. This is a trouble not easily remedied. The parents will not isolate the children with Whooping Cough, and cannot be made to think it is of any serious consequence. The seven zymotic diseases, with the deaths, for some years past, are as under :—

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0	6	0	5	3	6
Diphtheria & Croup....	2	0	1	0	16	9	4
Enteric Fever	32	19	22	5	10	4	6
Measles	2	32	2	7	3	21	6
Whooping Cough	1	8	13	4	0	19	25
Diarrhœa	18	21	23	17	15	29	27

SMALL-POX.

There was only one death from this disease. This occurred in an unvaccinated man. In all, 20 cases of Small-pox were notified during the year. Besides what I have already said, as well as my report on the epidemic to the Local Government Board (which I append), I need not go any further into the matter. I think we may congratulate ourselves that we got over the Small-pox Epidemic with a minimum of cost to the ratepayers. *Compulsory vaccination and strict quarantine laws* are to be borne in mind as the only preventative means we have to check this terrible disease. The following is a copy of my report for the Local Government Board in the Small-pox outbreak :—

Borough of Ilkeston,
October 17th, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

"REPORT ON RECENT SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC."

The first case of Small-pox which came under my notice in the recent Epidemic occurred in my own practice on the 10th of August. This was the case of a coal miner named Jeffreys, at 27, Norman Street North, which house is about the middle of a row of eight cottages. The three back yards on which the houses open are separated from each other by low wood palings. I had the man removed immediately to the Fever Hospital. I also removed the man's wife and eight children to the quarantine portion of the Fever Hospital, and vaccinated the whole family. I had the house thoroughly cleansed, the paper stripped off the walls, and the whole house well fumigated with sulphur. I hunted up all the possible contacts, visited all the houses in the vicinity, and vaccinated all of those whom I could prevail upon to be vaccinated. On inquiring into the possible source of the infection, I discovered that 3 adults in a house a few doors off had, a couple of weeks previously, been ill with what was diagnosed as Chicken Pox. One of these men was a carpenter who worked at Derby, and came home to Ilkeston for each week-end. He was the first to take ill. Then followed his brother and his brother's wife. They all had spots, I was told, on their faces and arms, &c., and were ill in bed for from 7 to 12 days. These cases had evidently been Small-pox, but unfortunately they were diagnosed as Chicken Pox, and as such had not been reported to me. Another case of Small-pox was reported to me on the 16th of August, at 37, Norman Street. This was the case of a married woman, and I found on enquiring that she lived next door to 2 of the supposed Chicken Pox cases mentioned above, and also that she had been in their house, helping to nurse them, dressing the bed, &c., and giving them food. I had her removed at once to the Fever Hospital,

and her husband and family put in quarantine and vaccinated. Also this house was thoroughly disinfected, as in the first case. At this point I had the so-called Chicken Pox houses disinfected. The next case was one of the first family who had been in quarantine in the Fever Hospital, and the spots appeared on the 17th. Then another case cropped up on the 25th, at 25, Norman Street North. This case and house and family were treated on the same lines as the other cases. Then, the following day, another case appeared next door, which was treated in the same manner.

Meanwhile many of the contacts, &c., were holding out against vaccination, and were thus a danger as well as an expense to the Borough. I brought all the pressure I could to bear, and finally explained to the coal and iron masters and others the danger of employing these men, and the importance of compulsory vaccination in stamping out the epidemic. Very soon notices were sent out by the masters to the men that my instructions must be obeyed, otherwise the men would not be allowed back to work. After this I had no further difficulty, and compulsory vaccination of contacts and of the neighbouring houses became the rule.

At this juncture also I decided to put this whole row, comprising 8 houses, into quarantine. This at first was difficult, but I soon succeeded very effectively by the aid of a policeman. The inhabitants numbered about fifty. They were fed at the expense of the Borough, and I vaccinated every one of them.

I also had large posters put on all the infected and quarantined houses and all over the Borough. (Poster enclosed.) I also thought it advisable, and had the Schools in the district closed. All went well for a while till the 3rd September, when 2 other cases occurred in 137, Cotmanhay Road, about 400 yards away from the Norman Street area. Fortunately, these cases were diagnosed and reported early before they became very infectious. These and the house and family were treated as in the other cases, and all possible contacts vaccinated and watched. Then, on the 10th, another case cropped up on Heanor Road, about 400 yards on the opposite side of the Norman Street area. The same treatment was adopted in this case. Then, again, on the 12th, two cases appeared in another direction, about 500 yards from the Norman Street area. This was at 144, Awsworth Road, and again the same treatment was applied, and over 50 persons in the row of houses which opened into one common yard were all vaccinated. The next case was reported to me on the 16th. This was in the opposite end of the Borough, at 110, Hallam Fields, which house is one of 16 all opening into one common back yard. The same practice was carried out here. I vaccinated all the people in the row and all contacts numbering well over 100 persons. Then again, after an interval of 14 days, another case cropped up on the 30th, near the Norman Street area. The same routine of vaccination and quarantine was gone through as in the other cases.

The last case up to date appeared in the Common Lodging-house in South Street, on the 10th of this month. It is the only "tramp case" we have had. He (the tramp) came from Derby, where they have had Small-pox rather badly for many months past. The Lodging-house is quarantined, and its 15 residents have been vaccinated. We have reason to hope that this will end the present epidemic here. In all we have had 14 cases of Small-pox with 10 different centres of infection.

We had one death, which was in an unvaccinated man of 44 years of age. The type of Small-pox in this case was decidedly Hæmorrhage and Malignant. This was the only unvaccinated case amongst the whole lot.

I have altogether since the appearance of the Epidemic on the 10th August vaccinated over 400 contacts, and I may say that no case of Small-pox occurred amongst any of them. From the commencement of the Epidemic all the infected districts were closely watched, and every person on the sick list was carefully examined and kept under observation.

My recommendation in February last that Chicken Pox be included in our list of Infectious Notifications has now been adopted by this Council.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN J. TOBIN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease appeared here in the latter part of the year. The returns for the whole of England show a great prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the country. Altogether 78 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported to me during the year, so that a mortality of 6 is not very high. All the cases are isolated in their own houses, and kept under strict observation till the contagion is over. Every other possible means is also adopted to prevent the spread of the disease.

DIPHThERIA.

There were 4 deaths from this disease, which shows an improvement on last year. I am pleased to say the Council adopted my suggestion, and are supplying Diphtheric Antitoxin gratis. This has been largely availed of by the Medical Practitioners, and I am sure also with marked success in reducing the mortality of the disease. There were 8 cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, as against 33 the year before.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The slum districts of Ilkeston, like those of other towns, will always be a source of Typhoid and what are called filth diseases. The notifications of Typhoid during the past year are mostly dated from well known localities of this class:—Belvoir Street area (including Tutin's Buildings), Abbey Street, &c., Chapel Street, Club Row, &c., are largely in evidence amongst the notifications. From the filthy habits and want of cleanliness amongst many of the people of these and kindred districts Typhoid seems to become an actual contagious disease, and one resulting from the contact and overcrowding of this class of people.

Even with a perfect water supply, slum districts seem to be capable of generating certain zymotic diseases *de novo*. Ventilation and the free use of soap and water are the only remedies I can suggest.

DIARRHŒA.

This refers especially to the Summer Diarrhœa of children and young people. There were 27 deaths from it last year, as against 29 the year before. It is mainly caused by food and milk fermentation in the late Summer. Every measure to prevent this should be adopted. Fresh food and fresh milk only should be used. The prevention of dust and flies in contact with food should be ensured. As I have already mentioned and emphasised, close attention should be paid to milk, which enters so largely into the food of young people. The sterilizing of milk during the months of July, August, and September should be made as universal as possible. The method is mainly as follows:—Heat the milk to a temperature of about 180 deg. F.—that is, a little short of boiling point; and keep it at this temperature for about 20 minutes. Do not allow the milk to actually boil. This process has the effect of destroying the bacteria and preventing fermentation of the milk, and thus lessening the tendency to Diarrhœa. It also has the advantage over boiled milk that it does not alter the taste of the milk. In the preface also I have mentioned the more widespread advantages of sterilizing all milk.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

As time goes on, with the working of the new Midwives' Act, I am more and more convinced that the working of the Act should be in the hands of the Local Authority. Until this comes to pass, no regular system of supervising and instructing the local faculty of Midwives can be possible.

PHTHISIS.

This is a more serious item than in any of the preceding years, causing 26 deaths in 1904, as against 18 the year before.

Phthisis is a matter that will always have to be reckoned on in a district like ours. From the point of view of our rather severe climate in Winter and early Spring, taken in conjunction with the occupations of the people, together with their resultant poor physique and lessened powers of resistance against the Tubercle Bacillus, one always has to anticipate it. Hence it is that our preventative treatment must be from a very broad basis, and ought to be taken into account in all those potent factors comprised under the term "environment." This is a very large field indeed. It includes more especially

the places where the people work as well as the nature of their work, and also, of course, where and how they live, and more especially still how they are housed. The Housing question and its bearing on Consumption is all important. Remember that Consumption is not a hereditary disease, as used to be held. Consumption is generated and bred and propagated in the overcrowded dwellings of the poor and of the working classes. Professor Koch, at the Congress on Tuberculosis, said that "the domestic conditions under which the poor live, especially in large towns, is responsible for the presence and spread of Tubercular Diseases." Here lies also the infectivity of the disease, which is no longer a matter of doubt. Hence may be inferred the importance of the Housing question in all its bearings, and the responsibility devolving on a Corporate body in the matter of the health of the people.

FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT.

The detailed work under this Act will be seen in the following Table, and is also embraced largely in the subjoined report of the Sanitary Inspector, who has helped me considerably in this part of the work.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) and Workplaces	140	32	nil.
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2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—

Want of cleanliness	9	9	
Want of Ventilation	2	2	

Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—

Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)	2	2	nil.
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Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) 9	9	9	nil.
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Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or small-pox (S. 109)	10	10	
	—	32	

Total	32	32	
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Sanitary Inspector

FOR 1904.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
TOWN HALL, ILKESTON,

February 16th, 1905.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Borough of Ilkeston.*

GENTLEMEN,

Annual Report for 1904.

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Third Annual Report upon the work carried out by me in this Borough during the year 1904.

During the year 96 Preliminary Notices were issued to Owners or Occupiers for nuisances found to exist, and 144 Statutory Notices were ordered to be served by direction of your Committee.

Appended hereunder is a table giving the total number of Preliminary and Statutory Notices served during the past five years :—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904
Preliminary Notices	173	120	78	130	96
Statutory Notices	150	190	270	216	144

A brief glance at above table will give some idea of the amount of work successfully completed towards better sanitation of premises in general; and I am glad to state that such notices have in each case received attention; the general public of Ilkeston, as a body, show greater interest in matters relating to their health than at any previous recorded period; and the works generally have received prompt attention—so much so that no legal proceedings have been found necessary to be instituted for non-compliance with notices issued.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

During the year 1904, 2332 inspections of premises were made, as against 2688 in the preceding year. The decrease of the number of visits made during 1904, as compared with those of 1903, took place in inspections where zymotic diseases had broken out, there having been 180 such premises in 1904, as against 131 in 1903. During the early part of the year Small-pox was found.

The number of complaints investigated—a phrase that may be taken as equivalent also to the number of complaints made—amounted to 198. This is a remarkable increase on the complaints made in any previous year. The striking increase between 1903 and 1904 is particularly interesting, because it appears to show that the Ilkeston public are at last awaking to the importance of good sanitation, and even now the awakening has but begun, to organise and regularly conduct a house to house inspection day by day, month by month and year after year; for in this way only can the multitudinous insanitary evils that abound be grappled with. To trust to the unfortunate victims of foul environments to complain to the Health Department is to exhibit an entire ignorance of the mental qualities of a considerable proportion of civilized mankind.

The figures quoted, showing the large and gratifying increase of complaints, prove clearly by implication that a year earlier many of these would have never reached the Sanitary Inspector. In part this is due to the habitude of unclean conditions; in part to reluctance to inform against that too often passive recipient of complaints, the rent collector; in part to absolute ignorance of the persons to whom complaints should be made. In Ilkeston, it may be said, a con-

siderable percentage of the population are ignorant of the existence of a Health Office, and confine their complaints, when they make any, to a friend or the rent collector, neither of whom is likely to contribute to any practical solution of the problem; and it is precisely among this percentage that many of the worst nuisances occur.

Nothing, I am satisfied, will procure the removal of insanitary conditions but a close and frequent inspection of all premises within the Borough, and a great deal of time is occupied with enquiring into complaints received, visiting premises where sickness or a nuisance exists, and with re-visiting those premises where notices have been sent for abatement, several such subsequent visits being usually required that the work ordered may be properly carried out.

During 1904 several privies have been replaced by water closets, but there is still a large number of such privies. A more extended acquaintance with the privy-midden has only strengthened my previously expressed opinions as to its disgustingly insanitary nature and unsuitability for a district like Ilkeston.

There has been so far no appreciable departure from the present method of arranging for the disposal of excreta, and this notwithstanding the fact that Ilkeston is singularly ill-suited for this system. The populous part of the Borough is built upon hills of steepness varying from gentle slopes to moderate gradients, on which privy-middens and houses alternate, each house overlooking, and being in its turn overlooked by other privy-middens, of which a varying number allow their semi-fluid contents to ooze through and trickle down the walls on to the yards of premises adjoining.

In most cases there is but one way in which a permanent abatement can be effected, and that is by the abolition entirely of all privy-middens and the erection in their place of water closets.

The habit of draining these middens is a recognition of the failure of the so-called "dry" system. Even when roofed in, these middens are never dry, because, besides the urine which of necessity goes into the pit, and besides what is a very frequent complication in Ilkeston—the presence of large quantities of ground water, much of the house slops find

their way into such middens. It is so much easier to throw slops into a midden than to put them down the yard grate in such a way as not to splash the yard, that if—as is usually the case—the midden be reasonably near, it gets the preference. The privy-midden is not, I think, built in the belief that it should be watertight, and the middens now existing justify this belief, go on for decades distributing the more fluid part of their contents into soil surrounding, which must have by now attained a condition of foulness quite appalling.

In some middens which have been abolished a drain pipe has been unearthed and found to contain a deposit varying from one inch to complete blockage with black, slimy, foul-smelling filth. Not only does the pipe itself become blocked, but in some cases it gives rise, beyond the point where it communicates with other drains, to a similar state of things.

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

Repairs to existing house drains and water closets have been effected in 128 cases, as against 448 in 1903. Water closets are being established in all new buildings, and in old premises only constitute a small proportion of the number, which is mainly composed of the taking up and properly relaying of previously defective house drains. It might be well to add that so long as owners will continue to repair the abominable iron bell grate and lip grates, the work of the Health Department will be harassed very materially. Few persons are susceptible to the fact that where iron lip and bell grates exist, there also will be found large foul-smelling cess-pools immediately underneath, and where occupants can drive away all refuse, rags, tins, &c., which may be allowed to accumulate in the yards. Hence choked drains.

HOUSE PROPERTY.

During the year 75 houses have been cleansed, repaired internally, and limewashed. A portion of the work included under this heading is that of alterations of defective structural conditions in houses, as bad roofs, damp walls, &c.; but in addition to this a considerable number of cases of “cleaning down and limewashing,” as a sequel usually in filthy houses to disinfection, is included.

PAVING OF YARDS.

A number of yards have been paved and repaired, asphalt being in some cases employed. This is a form of sanitary improvement which is of considerable importance, as not only do unpaved yards allow slops thrown on them to be for some time on the surfaces in puddles, and finally to sink into and foul the ground, but they also become in wet weather very muddy, and increase the difficulty of keeping houses clean.

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 24 cases of overcrowding have been reported to the Medical Officer of Health, and in most cases the Committee have wisely ordered notices to be issued. In each case the nuisance from overcrowding was abated by the removal into more commodious premises.

DETAILS OF SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT
DURING 1904.

DRAINAGE—

Number of disconnections of waste pipes	9
Defective traps, inlets, and drains	66
Drains obstructed	79

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS—

Insanitary privies and ashpits	116
Insufficient closet accommodation	0
Conversion of privies into water closets	3
Defective water closets	38
Surface yards paved	45
Eaves and spouts	5
Urinals	7
Water supply	9
Offensive accumulations	10
Animals improperly kept	8
Pigstyes	8
Smoke nuisances	0
Overcrowding	24
Foul condition of houses	75
Total	970
Number inspected	90
Informal notices served	30

Number of houses repaired	30
Reported unfit for habitation	2
Legal notice to close	2
Number closed	2
Number of infected houses	364
Disinfected	370
Inspection of works in progress	335
Infectious diseases re-visits	407

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—

Number on register	27
Number inspected	15
Notices served	0

BAKEHOUSES—

Number on register	33
Number inspected	64
Notices served	27

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—

Number on register	20
Number inspections	72
Notices served	5

OFFENSIVE TRADES—

Number on register	2
Number inspections	12
Notices served	0

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES—

Number on register—.....	2
Number inspections	35
Notices served	4

WORKSHOPS—

	1903	1904
Number on register	111	126
Number inspections	150	140
Notices served	39	32
Smoke tests applied		17

WATER.

There have been eight samples of well waters submitted to the Analyst, and in each case the same has been found highly contaminated and dangerous for use for domestic purposes. In each case the usual notices have been issued by

your Committee, and the various premises have been furnished with an ample supply of wholesome water from the mains. In the majority of these wells they have been abandoned and filled up.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

These establishments are only two in number in the Borough ; and, as I have previously reported in my report for 1903, have an accommodation for 67 persons. The premises are systematically inspected, and their condition is undoubtedly improving ; but while this is so, it is still a fact that the conditions under which some of the occupants live are far from satisfactory. It is probably correct to state that as a rule the very lowest class of the community resort to such premises ; and in addition to the obvious liability to insanitary conditions, these premises offer convenient residences for persons of the working class who are absolutely careless and reckless as regards their rights of citizenship. Usually their only possessions are the clothes they wear ; not even the towels, cups and saucers, &c., belong to them ; indeed, in the majority of cases, harbour the profligate and most reckless class in the Borough.

It might be well to note also, in some parts of the Borough real difficulties have been experienced during the year in improving the conditions of premises where persons reside other than one family. In some cases only two rooms (one living and one bedroom) are occupied by another family ; and I am strongly of opinion that the time has arrived when power should be obtained to bring all such premises within the law dealing with houses sub-let in lodgings.

On October 10th, prior to our Annual Fair, a case of Small-pox was found at one of the Common Lodging Houses in South Street, and promptly removed to the Sanatorium, and all the rooms thoroughly disinfected immediately afterwards. It is a source of gratification to say that the Health Committee of this Borough very ably assisted the residents who were kept housed and confined for a period, and readily granted assistance during their stay, which certainly checked the spread, not only in this town but into others. It was also discovered that this patient had been wandering about in Derby for some time previous, and had stayed in various lodging houses where the disease had been manifest.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The Borough has 20 licensed slaughter-houses now in occupation, one old license having been allowed to lapse owing partly to dilapidations and partly to removal to more commodious premises. In two instances a change of occupation has been renewed. Frequent visits have been made to these places, both during killing operations and after ; and I am pleased to again record favourably with respect to their sanitary and cleanly condition. It is to be desired, in the interests of public Health, that the day is fast approaching when private slaughter-houses may give place to public abattoirs. I refer to these points knowing full well ; and it seems incredible, at first sight, that tenants can tolerate such abominations as some of these slaughter-houses are, in a yard which is provided for their common use, and which is their only open space for drying clothes and other domestic purposes, and in which their children have to play. And yet, not only are slaughter-houses to be found, overlooked by windows of dwellings and closely adjacent to them, but, in some instances, the accommodation is so deficient that it is impossible for slaughtering to take place without the whole process being visible to persons in the vard.

ACCUMULATIONS OF MANURE, &c.

Altogether 20 notices have been issued, as compared with 26 for 1903. The nuisances created by the accumulations vary in degree according to the character of the receptacle in which refuse is stored. It is no uncommon sight to see stable manure thrown in a heap in the corner of a yard adjacent to a dwelling-house ; at other times in the centre of open yards, without walls around or roof attached ; the result being that the refuse rots, store room becomes filthy, and the collectors will not incur the defilement attending a perfect clearance.

All the evils above described are intensified in a high degree when the receptacle is below ground level ; the rain enters the pit, and confinement of the organic matters causes heat with rapid putrefaction ; the results being that, after a short detention, serious nuisances arise to the great discomfort of persons living in the vicinity. Everyone who has observed the "steam " arising when the contents are disturbed, must have been annoyed by its horrible offensiveness.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only business coming under the statutory description "offensive" carried on in the Borough, is that of tripe-boiling, two in number—one situated in Derby-road, and the other at the Larklands. Last year I reported only one; the additional premises were established in April of 1904, and received sanction from this authority. These two trades are worked economically and effectively, and considering the hygenical type and situations, no annoyance or smells are experienced in the neighbourhood. Seventeen visits have been made, and the owners are to be highly congratulated upon the very great cleanliness throughout.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

I append hereunder a table showing the number of Infectious Diseases reported to this Borough during 1904, and for five years previous:—

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Small-pox	0	0	20	4	20
Diphtheria	16	15	40	31	8
Membranous croup	1	0	0	2	1
Erysipelis	16	11	12	5	7
Scarlet Fever	142	63	77	55	78
Enteric Fever	173	30	16	29	36
Puerperal Fever	2	1	3	5	2
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	30

As previously quoted in my report for 1903, upon the information of the existence of the occurrence of any Infectious Disease, I visit the premises immediately, and after thoroughly investigating, I again report to the Medical Officer of Health. An ample supply of Disinfectants is given, and every possible assistance given for isolating same. Twenty cases of Small-pox were notified during the year. In each case immediate removal to the Sanatorium was carried out, and thorough disinfection of the premises performed by me; the bedding and some of the furniture was destroyed by burning. Unfortunately one death occurred out of the 20 cases. In each instance the rooms were thoroughly stripped, washed, and cleansed throughout, and the adjoining premises kept in quarantine; and Re-Vaccination was performed success-

fully by the Medical Officer, with the result that no other cases could be evidenced from the Convalescents.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The Workshops within the Borough have been systematically visited from time to time during 1904 ; and, as I have previously reported, this Act confers certain additional powers to the multifarious duties of both Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector. Rag-sorting is a class of work which appears to be generally carried on within this town under insanitary conditions ; one frequently finds persons using their homes for such a purpose, and occasional sharp notices have been issued to prohibit such. The sorting of the rags gives off a large quantity of dust and other impurities ; and although the rags are all sorted by hand, it is seldom that provision is found for washing. The sorters stand in their houses or sit on boxes, and, except in very warm weather, close all windows and openings. The regular and frequent removal of the stock and refuse is most important in this class of business to enable premises to be thoroughly cleansed.

Workshop floors are being regularly swept as accumulations are to be found, especially cuttings of materials, paper, boxes, &c., where harbouring dust, &c.

A large amount of time has been occupied in dealing with the lists of outworkers forwarded by the various firms, and after inspections of the homes when such works are in progress, I have frequently had to vigorously enforce cleansing of such rooms ; the floors have not been swept from the previous day, the table is strewn with dirty pots—the remnants of breakfast. The urgency with which work has had to be returned, the occupier has had to neglect to cleanse. In a few instances, where work has been carried on at the home, owing to outbreaks of Infectious disease, the Medical Officer has caused instructions to be given to the occupants to cease work or reside in lodgings. In each case the orders have been obeyed.

I have reported in last year's statement that two underground bakehouses exist, and are occupied. The following summary deals with work done in connection with workshops and Bakehouses in the Borough :—

	1903	1904
Number of Workshops	111	126
Notices under Public Health Act, 1875	17	32
OUTWORKERS :—		
Number on Register	296	396
Notices given prohibiting work to be done on Infected Premises	12	10
BAKEHOUSES :—		
Number of Retail Bakehouses	35	35
Number of Factory Bakehouses	1	1
Number of Notices Served :—		
<i>i.e.</i> :—Drains inside	5	9
Limewashing	15	14
Ventilation		2
Lighting		3
General repairs		4
Reports received from Factory Inspector		8
Other complaints	—	—

It is a pleasing duty to be able to record the amount of care and attention on the part of the Health Committee which has been directed to bettering the Sanitary condition of the Borough is undoubtedly making itself apparent in the improved statistics, and that during the next decade even more striking results will be indicated.

I have, in conclusion, to again report that the success which has attended my efforts in successfully carrying on my duties is largely due to the loyal and painstaking work of the Medical Officer of Health, also the Town Clerk, Surveyor, and Staff. They have displayed great assistance in all matters I have brought to their notice during the year.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH B. DURO,

Sanitary Inspector.

➤❧ APPENDIX. ❧➤

Summary of Work done by Inspector of Nuisances during the Year 1904.

Informal Notices served by Inspector.....	96
Legal Notices served by Authority	144
Nuisances abated	243

DRAINAGE :—

No disconnection of Waste Pipe	9
Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains	66
Drains Obstructed	79

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS :—

Insanitary Privies and Ashpits	116
Conversion of Privies into w.c.'s	3
Defective Water Closets	38
Surface of Courts and Yards	45
Eaves, Spouts, and Down Spouts	5
Urinals Defective	7
Water Supply	9
Offensive Accumulations	10
Animals improperly kept	8
Pigsties	8
Overcrowding	24
Foul Condition of Houses	75
Total	—970

*Precautions taken by Inspector against Infectious Disease, the
Sale of Adulterated Food and Drugs and Unsound Meat.*

Five Carcases and Viscera, suffering from Tuberculosis,
confiscated by Owners ; 1 Pig (dropsy), 71 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Beef, unsound.

Eight Well Waters analysed, and Town Supply laid on.
Wells filled up.

DWELLING-HOUSES :—

Number Inspected	90
Informal Notices to Repair Houses	30
Number of Houses Repaired	30

Reported as Unfit for Habitation	2
Legal Notices to Close Houses	2
Number of Houses Closed	2
Number of Infected Houses	364
Number Disinfected	370
Inspections of Work in Progress	335
DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS :—	
Number on Register	27
Number of Inspections	15
BAKEHOUSES :—	
Number on Register	33
Number of Inspections	64
Number of Notices served for infringements of Bye-Laws	27
SLAUGHTER HOUSES :—	
Number on Register	20
Number of Inspections	72
Number of Notices served for infringements of Bye-Laws	5
OFFENSIVE TRADES :—	
Number on Register	2
Number of Inspections	12
COMMON LODGING HOUSES :—	
Number on Register	2
Number of Inspections	35
Number of Notices served for infringement of Bye-Laws	4
WORKSHOPS :—	
Number on Register	126
Number of Inspections	140
Number of notices served for infringements of Bye-Laws	32
Total Number of Inspections made..	—1841

JOSEPH B. DURO,

Cert. San. Inspector.